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History of Compulsory Enrollment and excuses in Montana

The original compulsory attendance statute was adopted in 1887. This statute was amended in 1903 and 1907 prior to the first Session laws for 1913 which we have available at OPI.

The following table represents the changes to compulsory enrollment beginning with 1913 and ending with the current version which was last amended in 1991.

Year	Montana Code #	Ages for enrollment	Excused from Enrollment	Comments
1913	1100	8-14	Mental/physical conditions, schooled at home, distance is a hardship.	Children ages 14-16 required to attend unless engaged in regular employment or otherwise excused.
1921	1100	8-16	Age 14+ and has completed 8 th grade, or wages are necessary to support family; mental/physical conditions, schooled at home, distance is a hardship.	
1949	Sec. 1135 of RCM (1935)	8-16	Age 14+ and has completed 8 th grade, or wages are necessary to support family; mental/physical conditions, schooled at home, distance is a hardship.	Only change was to require that the school of attendance be a school "in which the basic language taught is English."
1955	75-2901 RCM (1947)	8-16	Age 16 and has completed 8 th grade, or wages are necessary to support family; mental/physical conditions, schooled at home, distance is a hardship.	Change from 14 to 16 was the only change, all other reasons to be excused from enrollment remain.
1959	75-2901 RCM (1947)	Age 7 prior to the beginning of the fall term and not over 16	Age 16 and has completed 8 th grade, or wages are necessary to support family; mental/physical conditions, schooled at home, distance is a hardship.	Also added requirement that the child be 7 prior to the beginning of the fall school term and not over 16.
1971	75-6303 RCM	7 or older prior to first day of school and has not	1) enrolled in private school 2) enrolled with another school under tuition provisions 3) correspondence or home study	Codes were restructured Changed age requirement from "prior to beginning of fall term" to "prior to first

		reached 16 or completed the 8 th grade	under transportation provisions 4) bodily or mental condition 5) not in best interests of child as determined by judge	day of school" Added new excuses, deleted wages needed and distance as reasons.
1973	75-6303 RCM	7 or older prior to first day of school and has not reached 16 and completed the 8 th grade	Same as 1971	Changed "or" to "and"
1975	75-6303	Same	Same	Only change relates to BPE determining instructional program.
1979	20-5-102 MCA	7 or older prior to first day of school until later of age 16 and completed the 8 th grade	a) enrolled in private school b) enrolled with another school under tuition provisions c) correspondence or home study under transportation provisions d) bodily or mental condition e) not in best interests of child as determined by judge f) excused by Board of Trustees as not in best interests of child who has attained age 16.	Added (f)
1983	20-5-102 MCA	Same	a) enrolled in another school under tuition provisions b) correspondence or home study under transportation provisions c) bodily or mental condition and can't be instructed under spec ed d) excused by district judge e) excused by board of Trustees as not in best interest of a child who has attained age 16 f) enrolled in non public or home school	Added home school
1991	20-5-102	Same	Same except deleted c)	Special education act deleted c).

2000: Montana

Percent of Population 16 to 19 years Not Enrolled in School and Not a High School Graduate

Montana Average: 8.0%

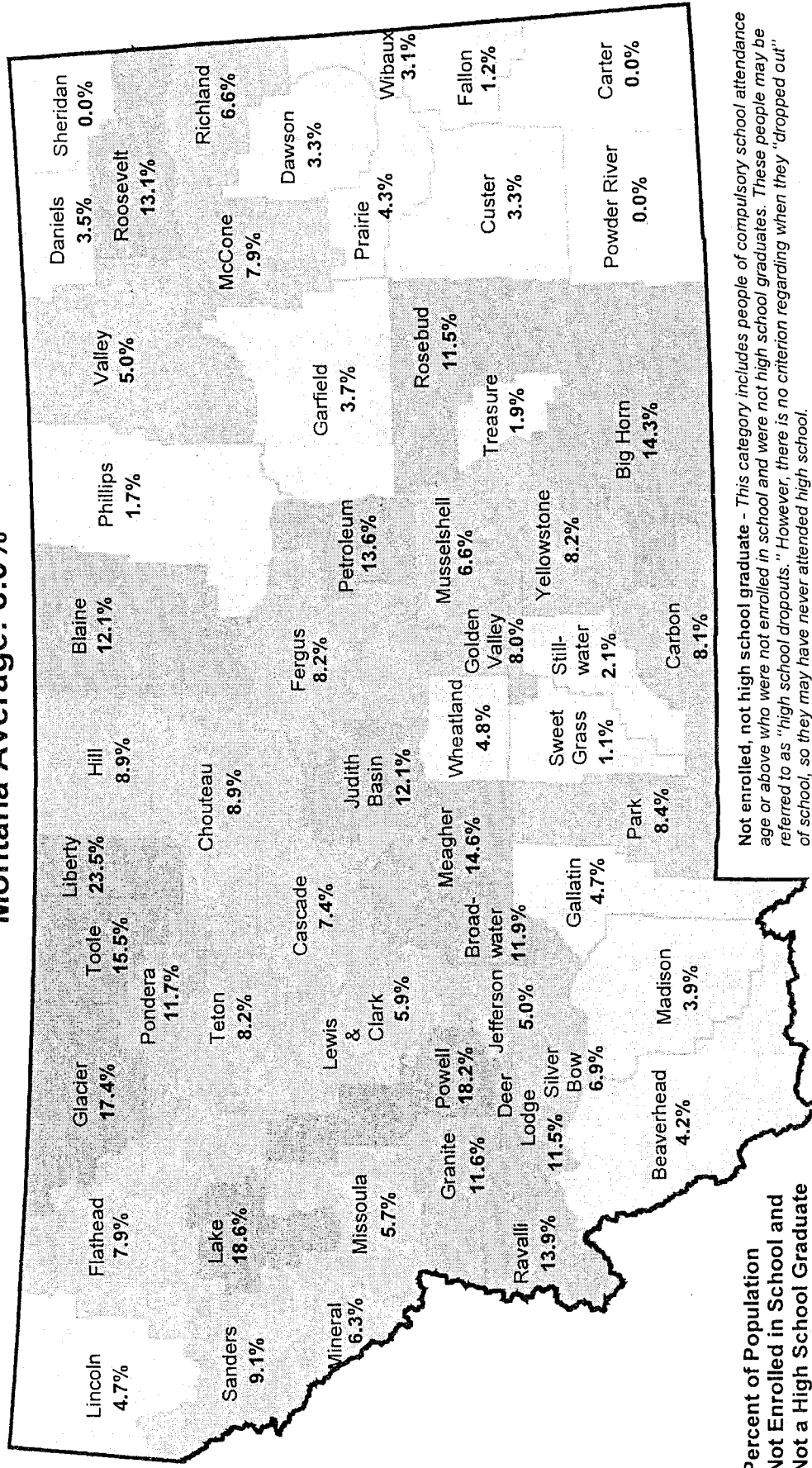
Geography	Population 16 to 19 years: Total	Population 16 to 19 years: In Armed Forces; Not enrolled in school; Not high school graduate	Population 16 to 19 years: Civilian; Not enrolled in school; Not high school graduate	Population 16 to 19 years: Total Population; Not enrolled in school; Not high school graduate	Percent of Population Not enrolled in school; Not high school graduate.
Beaverhead County, Montana	835	0	35	35	4.2%
Big Horn County, Montana	908	0	130	130	14.3%
Blaine County, Montana	506	0	61	61	12.1%
Broadwater County, Montana	226	0	27	27	11.9%
Carbon County, Montana	520	0	42	42	8.1%
Carter County, Montana	86	0	0	0	0.0%
Cascade County, Montana	4335	8	313	321	7.2%
Chouteau County, Montana	369	0	33	33	8.9%
Custer County, Montana	756	0	25	25	3.3%
Daniels County, Montana	114	0	4	4	3.5%
Dawson County, Montana	605	0	20	20	3.3%
Deer Lodge County, Montana	591	0	68	68	11.5%
Fallon County, Montana	166	0	2	2	1.2%
Fergus County, Montana	680	0	56	56	8.2%
Flathead County, Montana	4238	0	336	336	7.9%
Gallatin County, Montana	5008	0	237	237	4.7%
Garfield County, Montana	81	0	3	3	3.7%
Glacier County, Montana	913	0	159	159	17.4%
Golden Valley County, Montana	50	0	4	4	8.0%
Granite County, Montana	129	0	15	15	11.6%
Hill County, Montana	1207	0	107	107	8.9%
Jefferson County, Montana	658	0	33	33	5.0%
Judith Basin County, Montana	140	0	17	17	12.1%
Lake County, Montana	1805	0	335	335	18.6%
Lewis and Clark County, Montana	3520	2	206	208	5.9%
Liberty County, Montana	149	0	35	35	23.5%
Lincoln County, Montana	1144	0	54	54	4.7%

CENSUS 2000: Montana
Percent of Population 16 to 19 years Not Enrolled in School and Not a High School Graduate
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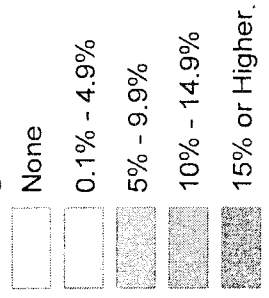
McCone County, Montana	114	0	9	9	7.9%
Madison County, Montana	355	0	14	14	3.9%
Meagher County, Montana	123	0	18	18	14.6%
Mineral County, Montana	221	0	14	14	6.3%
Missoula County, Montana	6412	0	367	367	5.7%
Musselshell County, Montana	274	0	18	18	6.6%
Park County, Montana	742	0	62	62	8.4%
Petroleum County, Montana	22	0	3	3	13.6%
Phillips County, Montana	291	0	5	5	1.7%
Pondera County, Montana	409	0	48	48	11.7%
Powder River County, Montana	101	0	0	0	0.0%
Powell County, Montana	336	0	61	61	18.2%
Prairie County, Montana	47	0	2	2	4.3%
Ravalli County, Montana	2087	0	290	290	13.9%
Richland County, Montana	587	0	39	39	6.6%
Roosevelt County, Montana	766	0	100	100	13.1%
Rosebud County, Montana	661	0	76	76	11.5%
Sanders County, Montana	628	0	57	57	9.1%
Sheridan County, Montana	212	0	0	0	0.0%
Silver Bow County, Montana	1981	0	137	137	6.9%
Stillwater County, Montana	423	0	9	9	2.1%
Sweet Grass County, Montana	175	0	2	2	1.1%
Teton County, Montana	368	0	30	30	8.2%
Toole County, Montana	348	0	54	54	15.5%
Treasure County, Montana	53	0	1	1	1.9%
Valley County, Montana	460	0	23	23	5.0%
Wheatland County, Montana	124	0	6	6	4.8%
Wibaux County, Montana	64	0	2	2	3.1%
Yellowstone County, Montana	7246	0	594	594	8.2%
U.S. Census Bureau: Census 2000	55369	10	4398	4408	8.00%

CENSUS 2000: MONTANA

Percent of Population 16 to 19 years Not Enrolled in School and Not a High School Graduate
Montana Average: 8.0%



Percent of Population
Not Enrolled in School and
Not a High School Graduate



Not enrolled, not high school graduate - This category includes people of compulsory school attendance age or above who were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates. These people may be referred to as "high school dropouts." However, there is no criterion regarding when they "dropped out" of school, so they may have never attended high school.



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